

BURCHETT IS HERE FOR U.N. COVERAGE

Wilfred Burchett, an Australian journalist often regarded as an unofficial spokesman for Hanoi, arrived here yesterday. He has received a 10-day visa that permits him to cover the United Nations General Assembly and restricts his travel to the area within a 25-mile radius around Columbus Circle.

The Guardian, a radical weekly newspaper published here, has listed Mr. Burchett among its featured speakers for a rally at the Fillmore East, 105 Second Avenue, tomorrow night.

Mr. Burchett's visa does not permit him to engage in public activities outside the scope of his United Nations coverage, an assignment he received from L'Evenement, a literary and political French monthly magazine. The journalist would not say whether he would participate in the Guardian rally or accept other public engagements.

Mr. Burchett, asked whether he was serving as an intermediary between Hanoi and Washington, or bringing a message from the Communist-dominated South Vietnam National Liberation Front, said: "That's romantic."

Mr. Burchett came to the United States on a Cuban passport, having been deprived of his Australian passport in 1955. A war correspondent with a reputation for courage and resourcefulness during World War II, he turned up on the Communist side during the Korean War and was accused of having helped to brainwash Australian prisoners of war.

This is his second visit to the United States, and his first since 1945.

Mr. Burchett plans to leave New York Dec. 11 for Paris, where he has been covering the talks between North Vietnam and the United States for The Guardian.